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delabar STATE PARK

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THE PARK

Delabar State Park is on the Mississippi River about 1½ miles north of Oquawka near Route 164 in Henderson County. It was named to honor two brothers, Roy and Jack Delabar, who gave the 89 acres to the state for park development and usage in 1959.

HISTORY

The area was called "Yellow Banks" before it was officially named Oquawka. It was thought the Indians who once lived in the area got the name from the high sandy bank along the river.

The park opened officially in 1960 and is a popular spot. It has many sturdy oak trees, along with some birch and hickory. Because of the shade there are not many flowers. However, the tree population serves as a natural habitat for squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, deer, groundhog and quail. Over 50 different species of birds have been identified at the park.

Nearby is Henderson County Conservation Area, which contains Gladstone Lake, a 27-acre lake with a maximum depth of 25 feet and 1½ miles of shoreline. It has a variety of fish for the angler, a launching ramp, boat fishing, picnicking areas and camping.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Three picnic areas are available, one at the south end, the north end and in the center of the park convenient to parking areas.

Picnic tables and camp stoves are provided. No cooking may be done except on park or camp stoves. Drinking water and toilets are provided.

Trails: For the nature lover and observer, there are two marked trails through the woods that cover almost two miles.

Camping: Areas for both tents and trailers are available. There is electricity, a sanitary station, and a jet pump for filling trailers. Drinking water is available in the camping area. All campers must obtain a permit from the park staff. Group camping is available; groups of over 25 must have advance permission to enter the park.

Fishing: River fishing is popular here, boats are allowed with motors of any size. There is a launching ramp on the river at the south end of the park and two boat docks. There is no boat rental at the park, but there is a marina closeby.

Concession stand: A snackbar, with a variety of small commodities available in the warm months, is west of the registration booth. The playground is just west of the campgrounds. There is also a shelter house.

Winter Sports: Many visitors take advantage of the backwaters of the Mississippi River for ice fishing, and if the ice is thick enough, ice-skating is enjoyed.

Please: The area is for all to enjoy so please help keep it clean. All vehicles must remain on existing roadways and parking lots. No plants, flowers, shrubs, or trees may be removed or damaged. Fires are permitted only in camp-stoves located in the picnic and camping areas. All pets must be on a 10 foot leash or less.

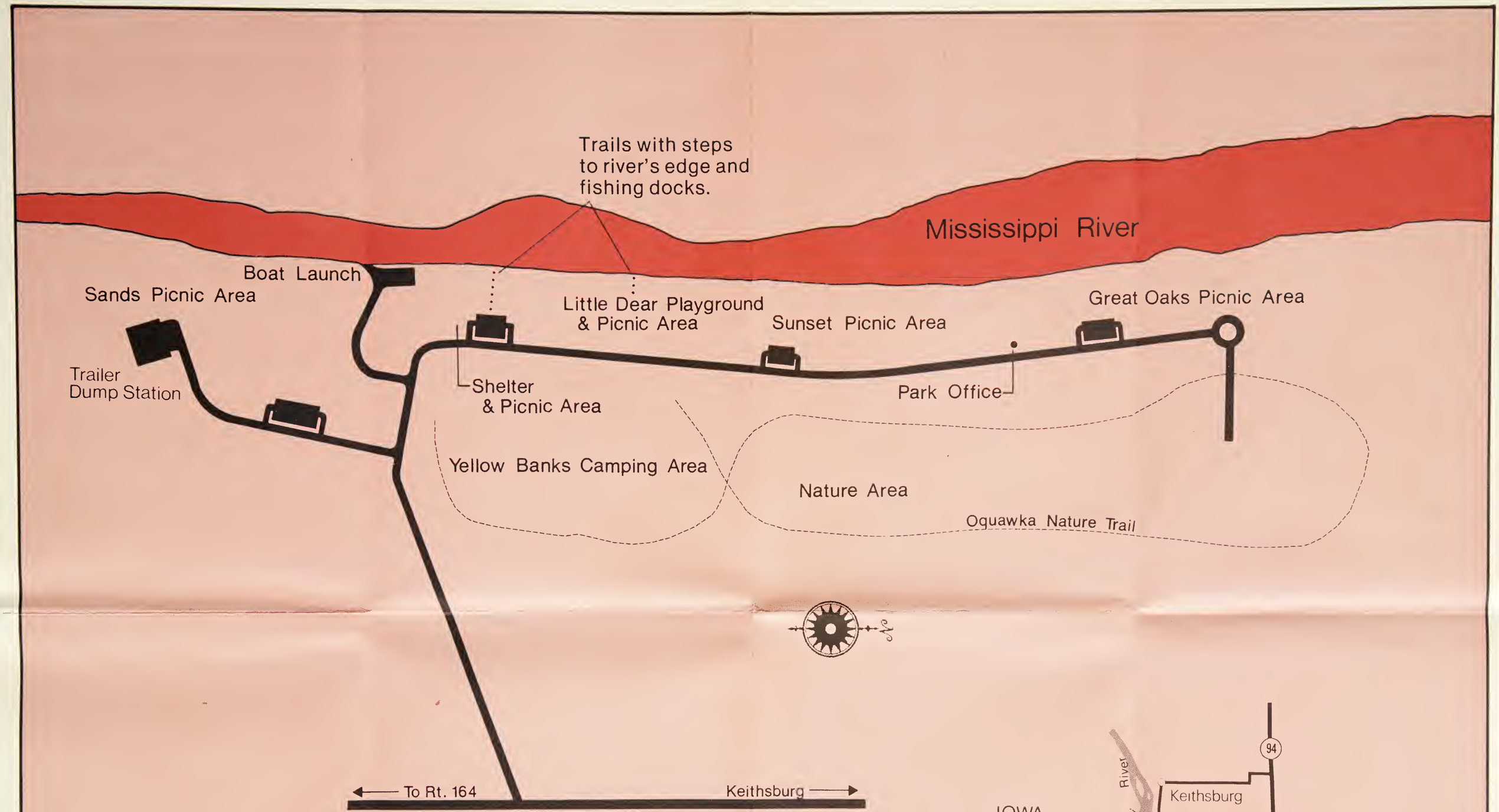
FOR YOUR INFORMATION. . .

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

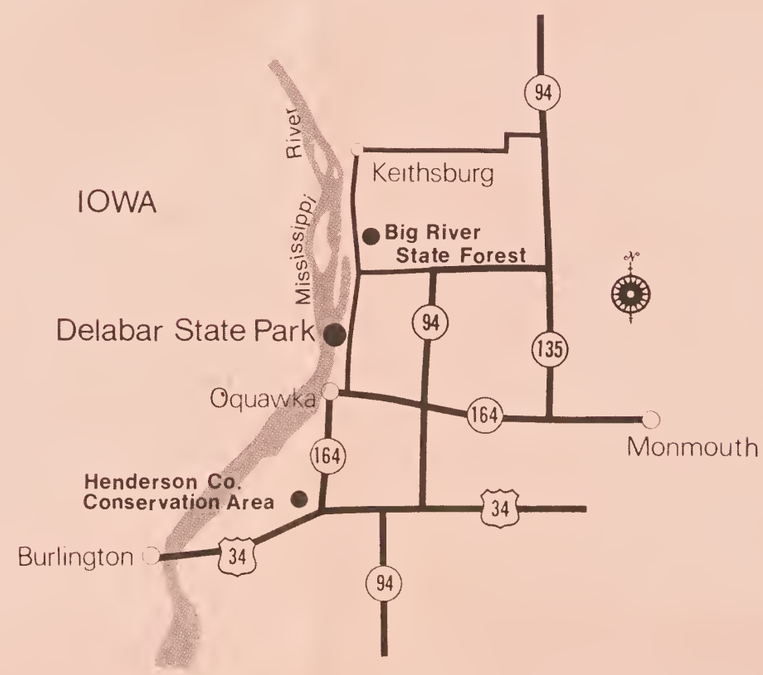
Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining room are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette and Giant City; White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Site Superintendent, Delabar State Park, R.R. 2, Oquawka, 61469, phone 309/867-3671. For information on other Illinois recreational areas, write the Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, 62706.


Trails with steps
to river's edge and
fishing docks.
Mississippi River
Boat Launch
Sands Picnic Area
Little Dear Playground
& Picnic Area
Sunset Picnic Area
Great Oaks Picnic Area
Trailer
Dump Station
Shelter
& Picnic Area
Park Office
Yellow Banks Camping Area
Nature Area
Oquawka Nature Trail
To Rt. 164
Keithsburg

Park Maps


IOWA
Mississippi River
Keithsburg
Big River
State Forest
Delabar State Park
Oquawka
Monmouth
Henderson Co.
Conservation Area
Burlington
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164
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